

ITEM: Floodplain Permit Application for the excavation and replacement of an existing segment of the Cushing to Hewitt 16" gas pipeline. The dig site is ~ 0.42 miles west of 180th Ave. SE and ~1 mile south of Alameda Ave. in the Lower Little River floodplain.

BACKGROUND:

APPLICANT: Plains All American Pipeline, LP

ENGINEER: Environmental Solutions and Innovations, Inc.

There is an existing gas pipeline owned by the applicant that is located ~0.42 miles west and ~1.0 miles south from the intersection of Alameda St. and 180th Ave. SE in the Lower Little River Floodplain. The dig site is located near an unnamed tributary of Roulette Creek. The installation of this pipeline was granted a floodplain permit in 2016 (#573). Recent testing revealed a possible defect in the pipeline wall that requires repair. The repair is being done as a preventative action and not as an emergency action.

According to the Applicant, the project will replace approximately 1150 feet of pipeline in the floodplain. The ground will be cleared above the repair location in the pipeline right of way to allow the pipeline section to be replaced. Once the new pipe is installed, the excavated area will be backfilled using existing materials and returned to pre-activity conditions. For the area below the stream bed, a 50 foot buffer will be maintained on either side of the channel and pipe will be installed using horizontal directional drilling (HDD). No changes in elevation or contours are expected as a result of this project.

Site located in Little River Basin or its Tributaries? yes ☒ no ☐

STAFF ANALYSIS: According to the latest DFIRM, the project site is located in the floodplains of the Little River and Roulette Creek (Zone A).

Applicable Ordinance Sections:

Subject Area:

429.1	4(b)(1)	Fill Restrictions in the Floodplain
	4(d)(iii).....	Special Requirements for Drilling for Oil and Gas Wells in Special Flood Hazard Area
	5(a)(viii)	No Rise Considerations

4(b)(1) Fill Restrictions – The use of fill is restricted in the floodplain. No fill will be brought into the floodplain as part of this project.

4(d)(iii) Special Requirements for Drilling Oil and Gas Wells in Special Flood Hazard Area -

All new or replacement flowlines, pipelines, etc. that will cross rivers, streams, creeks, and channels, shall be bored to be below the stream bed. The depth below the stream bed shall be a minimum of 10 feet. The pipe used for the crossing shall be 1 pipe grade higher, or have a wall thickness twice the thickness of the standard pipe used for the flowline, pipeline, etc. If the flowline, pipeline, etc. becomes exposed, the crossing must be rebored. The ground surface shall not be disturbed within 50 feet of the river, stream, creek, or channel banks.

According to the Applicant, the pipeline replacement will be bored under the stream bed and the ground will not be disturbed within 50 feet of the banks. The pipeline will also be installed in a heavy wall carrier pipe below the channel. These actions meet the requirements of this section of the ordinance.

5(a)(1)(viii) No Rise Considerations – For proposed development within any flood hazard area (except for those designated as regulatory floodways), certification that a rise of no more than 0.05 ft. will occur in the BFE on any adjacent property as a result of the proposed work. The

project engineer has certified that the project will not cause a rise in the BFE, which meets this ordinance requirement.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends that Floodplain Permit Application #666 be approved.

ACTION TAKEN: _____